

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PRS-01 /014 R

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S/PRS:MR. TRATTNER

-----120320Z 012036 /64

P 120150Z JAN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 006567

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:SOPN, US, FR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT'S PRESS BRIEFING ON DAOUD

FOLLOWING IS EXCERPT FROM THE DEPARTMENT'S NOON PRESS
BRIEFING, TUESDAY, JANUARY 11, CONCERNING DAOUD AFFAIR.

Q. JOHN, IS THERE ANY APPRECIATION BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT
ON THE DECISION OF THE FRENCH COURT THIS MORNING TO RELEASE
ABU DAOUD IN SPITE OF THE REQUEST FOR EXTRADITION BY THE
ISRAELI GOVERNMENT AND THE BAVARIAN GOVERNMENT? DOES THAT,
IN YOUR EYES, SEEM COMPATIBLE WITH FRANCE'S COMMITMENTS
WITH THE ANTI-TERRORIST INTERNATIONAL GROUP?

A. BERNARD, LET ME JUST SAY THAT OUR REACTION TO THAT
REPORT THAT YOU REFER TO IS ONE OF DISMAY -- DISMAY THAT
THROUGH AN APPARENT LEGAL TECHNICALITY NEITHER WEST GERMAN
NOR ISRAELI COURTS WILL BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO INTER-
ROGATE THIS MAN ABOUT THE BRUTAL AND REVOLTING MURDER OF
ATHLETES IN MUNICH. OUR DISMAY REFLECTS OUR ABHORRENCE
OVER THE BRUTAL AND MINDLESS MURDERS AT MUNICH, AND OUR
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STRONG CONVICTION THAT TERRORISTS SHOULD BE DEALT WITH
STERNLY AND FIRMLY BY THE LEGAL AUTHORITIES OF ALL COUNTRIES.

Q. THIS APPEARS TO INDICATE THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT
ACCEPTS THAT THIS MAN IS WHAT HE'S SUPPOSED TO BE -- THE
MAN WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ORGANIZING THESE MURDERS. IS
THAT SO?

A. HENRY, I WILL JUST STAND BY THE ANSWER I HAVE JUST GIVEN YOU;

Q. WILL THEY TRY TO BE --

Q. WILL THIS REACTION BE TRANSMITTED IN SOME WAY TO THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT?

A. I AM NOT AWARE THAT IT WILL BE, BERNARD, BUT WE ARE SAYING IT HERE PUBLICLY FROM THIS PODIUM.

Q. DID YOU ADVISE THE FRENCH BEFORE THE COURT DECISION WAS MADE ABOUT HOW THE US FEELS ON THIS?

A. BERNARD, WE WERE NOT CONSULTED BY THE FRENCH OR INFORMED BY THE FRENCH.

Q. NEITHER THE WEST GERMANS OR THE ISRAELIS REACHED THE US IN HOPES THAT THE US MIGHT COMMUNICATE WITH THE FRENCH?

A. I AM NOT AWARE THAT THEY DID, BERNIE, BUT I COULD LOOK INTO THAT FOR YOU, I THINK.

Q. ARE YOU AWARE THAT ISRAEL HAS RECALLED ITS AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE, AND DID THE STATE DEPARTMENT SPEAK WITH ISRAEL ABOUT THAT POSSIBLE ACTION BEFORE IT WAS TAKEN?

A. I AM NOT AWARE OF IT, NO. I AM NOT AWARE OF THAT
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REPORT.

Q. ARE YOU SAYING, JOHN, THAT THE UNITED STATES DID NOT MAKE ITS OPINIONS KNOWN TO THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT PRIOR TO THE COURT ACTION?

A. I AM SAYING THAT WE WERE NOT CONSULTED OR INFORMED BY THE FRENCH.

Q. NO, NO. I UNDERSTAND THAT ANSWER. BUT ARE YOU SAYING THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, THROUGH ITS REPRESENTATIVES IN FRANCE, DID NOT TAKE THE INITIATIVE TO INFORM THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT OF THE AMERICAN POSITION IN THIS CASE?

A. LET ME TRY TO GET YOU AN ANSWER TO THAT.
ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, EXTRADITION, PRESS CONFERENCES, TERRORISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE006567
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JFDOBBINS:JF
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770011-0218
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770158/aaaabyxa.tel
Line Count: 113
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c05270da-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16-Sep-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3614182
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPARTMENT'S PRESS BRIEFING ON DAOUD FOLLOWING IS EXCERPT FROM THE DEPARTMENT'S NOON PRESS BRIEFING, TUESDAY, JANUARY 11, CONCERNING DAOUD AF
TAGS: SOPN, US, FR, (DAOUD, ADU)
To: PARIS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbcc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c05270da-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009